

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Organic Standards Board

Report Run Date: 06/05/2019 01:50:36 AM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Organic Standards Board

3b. GSA Committee No.

1303

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

05/04/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

05/04/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

7 U.S.C. 6501-6522

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

7 U.S.C. 6501-6522 Organic Food Production Act

13. Effective Date

11/28/1990

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

04/27/2018

Report Title

April 2018 Final Recommendations

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

The NOSB: Reviews substances to be used in organic production, including conducting a sunset review every 5 years of substances currently on the National List; Makes recommendations and provides advice to the Secretary on various aspects of implementing the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA), and the NOP. The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) assists in the development of the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations, and maintains sole jurisdiction over the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.

Start

End

04/25/2018 - 04/27/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$76,009.00	\$79,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$50,292.00	\$48,000.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$2,375.00	\$3,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$71,324.00	\$70,000.00
18d. Total	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.00	1.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The NOSB was created through the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA). Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518 (a)) of the OFPA establishes that the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) shall assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA. Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518 (a-o)) also delineates the Board's responsibilities that include, but are not limited to (1) developing the proposed National List or proposed amendments to the National List for submission to the Secretary and (2) convening technical advisory panels to provide scientific evaluation of materials for inclusion on the National List. The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) was established to provide recommendations to the Secretary on implementing the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), which authorizes a national organic program for the production and handling of organically produced foods. NOSB also assists in the development of standards, review of substances to be used in organic production, and advises the Secretary on any other aspects of program implementation. (OFPA 6518(a)). In addition to recommending standards for the production, handling, and labeling of organically produced agricultural products, the NOSB assists in establishing and implementing a program for certifying products as organically produced, through the use of USDA accredited organic certifying agents.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

As called for in the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), the NOSB is composed of 15 members: four individuals who own or operate an organic farming operation; two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation; one individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products; three individuals with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation; three individuals who represent public interest or consumer interest groups; one individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry; and one individual who is a certifying agent. Committee members serve 5-year terms.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The NOSB meets twice each Fiscal Year. During the meetings, the Board approves meeting minutes, reviews Subcommittee reports; discusses and votes on proposals and materials, works on issues related to peer review panels, elects new officers, appoints Subcommittee chairpersons, and plans future activities of the Board. In addition, the Board takes public comments from interested persons regarding proposals and discussion documents.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The NOSB's continuing role is required by OFPA.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All NOSB meetings are open to the public

21. Remarks

The NOSB's six subcommittees are: Crops; Livestock; Handling; Materials/GMOs; Policy Development; and Compliance, Accreditation and Certification. Subcommittees meet between public meetings to develop proposals for the full NOSB's consideration. Prior to 2012 it was not required to list the Subcommittee meetings as part of the parent committee. Beginning in 2012, as per a recommendation from the NOSB, the notes from the Subcommittee conference calls have been posted online at the following address: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/subcommittees> The Subcommittee proposals are published in the following location, and NOP solicits public comments on the NOSB's behalf.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/meetings>

Designated Federal Officer

Michelle Arsenault Advisory Committee Specialist

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Baird, Sue	01/24/2017	01/23/2022	Mid-America Organic Association (MOA)	Representative Member
Behar, Harriet	01/24/2016	01/23/2020	Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service	Representative Member
Bradman, Asa	01/24/2017	01/23/2022	UC Berkeley	Representative Member
Briones, A-Dae	01/24/2016	01/23/2021	First Nations Development Institute	Representative Member
Buie, Jesse	01/24/2016	01/23/2021	Ole Brook Organics, Inc	Representative Member
Chapman, Tom	01/24/2015	01/23/2020	Clif Bar & Company	Representative Member
Ela, Steve	01/24/2017	01/23/2022	Ela Family Farm	Representative Member
Greenwood, Rick	04/25/2018	01/23/2023	UCLA	Representative Member
Mortensen, Dave	01/24/2017	01/23/2022	Penn State University	Representative Member
Mosso, Joelle	01/24/2017	02/08/2018	Olam Spices and Vegetable Ingredients (SVI)	Representative Member
Oakley, Emily	01/24/2016	01/23/2021	Three Springs Farm	Representative Member
Rice, Scott	01/24/2016	01/23/2021	Washington State Department of Agriculture	Representative Member
Schwartz, Eric	04/25/2018	01/23/2022	United Vegetable Growers Coop	Representative Member
Seitz, Dan	01/24/2016	01/23/2021	Council on Naturopathic Medical Education	Representative Member
Swaffar, Ashley	01/24/2015	01/23/2020	Vital Farms	Representative Member
Thicke, Francis	01/24/2013	01/23/2018	Environmentalist/Organic Farmer	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 17**Narrative Description**

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) assists in the development of the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations, and maintains sole jurisdiction over the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The NOSB: Reviews substances to be used in organic production, including a sunset review every 5 years of substances currently on the National List; Makes recommendations and provides advice to the Secretary on various aspects of implementing the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) and the NOP.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

632

Number of Recommendations Comments

As of April 2018, there have been a total of 632 recommendations: 191 on organic practice standards, 303 National list materials, and 138 sunset reviews.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

87%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

A large percentage of the NOSB's recommendations have been fully implemented by NOP, as many of them are for Sunset Materials on the National List, and Petitions. According to the NOSB Policy and Procedures Manual, these materials take priority and must be considered by the Board and the NOP. Additionally, the NOSB has sole authority over the National List of Approved and Prohibited substances and therefore is responsible for making sure the recommendations for materials entering sunset are implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

14%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Standards, guidance, and various materials' recommended by the NOSB sometimes require additional review and refinement by the NOP and often times are lengthy, longer-term projects, and therefore a small percentage have been only partially implemented.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Agency provides feedback in the form of new regulations, a post-recommendation response letter to the NOSB, and guidance to certifying agents and certified operations.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

The Committee is not involved or engaged in review of applications for grants.

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Organic Insider Newsletter